

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 14: Cancelled

15. (New) A method of producing a porous, plate-shaped metallic composite, including the steps of:

providing metallic fibers, and

compressing and fusing said metallic fibers together in a single step.

16. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said providing step comprises providing metallic fibers in the form of prefabricated metallic fiber mats.

17. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said metallic fibers are derived from bulk material and are initially separated.

18. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein opposite flat sides of said metallic composite are fused to respective cover layers in the form of wire meshes.

19. (New) A method according to claim 15, that is carried out continuously to form an endless metallic composite.

20. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said method is carried out in inert gas.

21. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said metallic fibers are fused together via pulse fusing.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said pulse fusing is capacitor pulse fusing.

23. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein the fusing step is carried out in less than 1 s.

24. (New) A method according to claim 23, wherein the fusing step is carried out in less than 10 ms.

25. (New) A method according to claim 15, wherein said metallic fibers are subjected to pressure prior to or during the fusing step.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the pressure is produced with a pressing force of 0.1 N/mm² to 10 N/mm².

27. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said pressing force is from 1.5 N/mm² to 6.0 N/mm².

28. (New) A sound-dampening panel formed of metallic fiber fleece having metallic fibers that are fused together, wherein said fused-together fibers are disposed between two cover layers.

29. (New) A sound-dampening panel according to claim 28, wherein said metallic fiber fleece is fused to said cover layers.

30. (New) A sound-dampening panel according to claim 28, wherein said cover layers are in the form of wire meshes.

31. (New) A gas burner insert formed of a metallic fiber fleece having metallic fibers that are fused together, wherein said fused-together metallic fibers are disposed between two cover layers.

32. (New) A gas burner insert according to claim 31, wherein said cover layers are in the form of wire meshes.